

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 EURE-00 SR-02 ORM-03 SS-20

NSC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 L-03 DPW-01 DRC-01 /124 W

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P R 161602Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 159

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 8540

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AU

SUBJECT: TRANSIT THROUGH AUSTRIA OF ASOVET JEWISH EMIGRES

REF: (A) TEL AVIV 8033; (B) GENEVA 5453

1. POLCOUN DISCUSSED TODAY WITH FONOFF CHIEF OF POLITICAL DEPARTMENT STEINER STATUS OF SCHOENAU TRANSIT CAMP AND WHAT, IF ANY, PLANS GOA HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION TO HANDLE SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRES IN VIEW OF CHANCELLOR KREISKY'S DECISION TO CLOSE CAMP.

2. STEINGER STATED THAT TRANSIT CAMP WOULD CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AS BEFORE UNTIL ADEQUATE ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE AND THAT ABOUT 1250 EMIGRES HAD BEEN PROCESSED THROUGH CAMP IN TWO-WEEK PERIOD FOLLOWING ARAB TERRORIST INCIDENT. HE REITERATED OFT-QUOTED KREISKY STATEMENT THAT SOI VET JEWISH EMIGRES WOULD BE ALLOWED TO CONTINUE TRANSIT AUSTRIA WITHOUT DIFFICULTY.

3. STEINER FEELS THAT BOTH MOSCOW-VIENNA-ISRAELI ARLIFT IDEA AND HAVING ICRC TAKE OVER SCHOENAU CENTER, AS SUGGESTED
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BY KREISKY, ARE NOT WORKABLE PROPOSALS. HE SAID FONOFF HAS

NOT BEEN ASKED TO RAISE MATTER EITHER WITH USSR OR ICRC
AND THAT HE WOULD ANTICIPATE NEGATIVE REPLIES IF MOSCOW OR
GENEVA QUERIED ON SUBJECT.

4. INTERIOR MINISTRY REPORTEDLY HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH COMING
UP WITH POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE SITES IN VIENNA AS COLLECTION
POINT FOR EMIGRES BUT THUS FAR HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO FIND ONE
WHICH MEETS REQUIREMENTS AS WELL AS EXISTING SCHOENAU CAMP.
ONE POSSIBILITY WHICH APPARENTLY IS STILL BEING GIVEN
SERIOUS CONSIDERATION IS THAT OF MOVING EMIGRES AFTER THEIR
ARRIVAL IN AUSTRIA TO FACILITY TO BE LOCATED ON OR NEAR
VIENNA AIRPORT.

5. STATUS OF SCHOENAU CAMP AND POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES THERETO
WAS DISCUSSED TODAY BY CHANCELLOR AND HIS IMMEDIATE STAFF.
WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE APPOINTMENT SOONEST WITH
MEMBER KREISKY STAFF. MOWINCKEL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EMIGRANTS, REFUGEE CAMPS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: thigpegh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENNA08540
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MOWINCKEL
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731028/aaaaaagn.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) TEL AVIV 8033; (B) GENEVA 5453
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpegh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Aug-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <30-Oct-2001 by thigpegh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRANSIT THROUGH AUSTRIA OF ASOVET JEWISH EMIGRES
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005